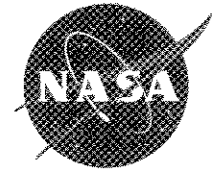


National Aeronautics and Space Administration  
Headquarters  
Washington, DC 20546-0001



October 21, 2010

Reply to Attn of: General Law Practice Group

TO: Distribution

FROM: Alternate Designated Agency Ethics Official

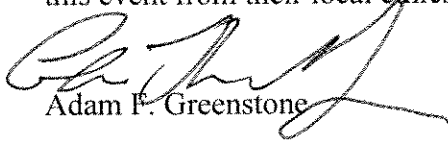
SUBJECT: Determination Regarding Attendance by NASA Employees at the National Engineers Week Foundation, University of Texas, and EdLab Group ***Celebrate the G in Engineering*** Reception on October 21, 2010

On October 21, 2010, the National Engineers Week Foundation, the University of Texas, and EdLab Group will host the ***Celebrate the G in Engineering*** reception at the National Building Museum, in Washington, D. C., from 6:00p.m.-8:00 p.m. The National Engineers Week Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, is a formal coalition of more than 100 professional societies, major corporations and government agencies and is dedicated to ensuring a diverse and well-educated future engineering workforce by increasing understanding of and interest in engineering and technology careers among young students and by promoting pre-college literacy in math and science. The University of Texas is a National Science Foundation grant recipient and oversees the GirlsRISENet program, which exists to create programs in regional science museums and institutions for girls. The University of Texas is a lobbying organization. Similarly, the EdLab Group is also an NSF grant recipient and, in collaboration with other partners, oversees the National Girls Collaborative Partnership, which exists to strengthen and support the inclusion of girls in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) programs. The EdLab Group is also a 501(c)(3) organization.

The reception will be attended by senior leaders of the aerospace industry, state and local officials, academia, Congressional representatives and staff, the media, other Federal agencies, and the public. Approximately 150 people have been invited and are expected to attend. The estimated cost of the reception, which includes all food and beverages, is \$32.50 per person. I find that the event meets the requirements of a "widely attended gathering" as defined in 5 C.F.R. § 2635.204(g).

I further determine that there is an Agency interest in having NASA personnel attend the event because it will further Agency programs or operations. Attendance at the reception will allow NASA representatives the opportunity to discuss NASA's education programs and plans with other guests. Accordingly, NASA employees whose duties do not substantially affect the event sponsors, or a majority or all of their members, may accept an invitation for free attendance to the reception and dinner for themselves and their accompanying guests.

However, NASA employees who are in non-career positions in which Executive Order 13490, requires signing an ethics pledge, may only attend if they reimburse the sponsors the cost of the reception for themselves and accompany guests. Moreover, NASA employees whose duties substantially affect the event sponsors, such as by way of procurement duties, should seek an individual determination pursuant to 5 C.F.R. § 2635.205(g)(3)(1) regarding participation in this event from their local ethics counselor.



Adam F. Greenstone